

PATENT
09/990,522
Docket 097/002

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application and under examination. There are no amendments to the specification or claims.

Further consideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Interview:

The undersigned wishes to thank Drs. Quang Nguyen and David Guzo for the courtesy of an interview at the Patent Office on November 13, 2003. Aspects of the June 18 Office Action were discussed. Suggestions made by the Examiners at the interview have been incorporated into this response and the accompanying documents.

Priority:

The Office Action indicates that the reference to priority applications should occur in the first sentence of the specification.

In fact, what is numbered as "page 2" in the application as filed is actually the first page of the specification. The page that precedes it is a cover page which was provided to protect the application, and to assist the clerks in preparing the Official Filing Receipt. The priority information is correctly provided on the first page of the application proper on lines 6-8, just under the title and section heading.

If it would be helpful, the Examiner is authorized to remove the cover sheet ("page 1") and place it elsewhere in the file wrapper, to prevent any confusion in this respect.

The Declaration was discussed at the interview. It was agreed that U.S. priority data need not be indicated on Declarations filed pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.63, and accordingly, that the Declaration previously filed in support of this application is in compliance with the requirements.